

# HEALTH

The mission of the Community Health Department is to protect the citizens of Wichita and Sedgwick County, minimizing morbidity and mortality by preventing the spread of disease, encouraging a healthful lifestyle and providing a safe environment.

## Overview

The Department consists of three divisions: Administration, Environmental Health and Preventive Health Services. Health programs include childcare licensing; food service and facility inspection; regulation of solid waste collection; air and water quality; vector control; hazardous waste control; and public health education.

In a collaborative effort to more closely align like services and clients, the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County are in the process of moving Preventive Health Services under the umbrella of County administration. Services associated with environmental health, including facility inspections, will continue

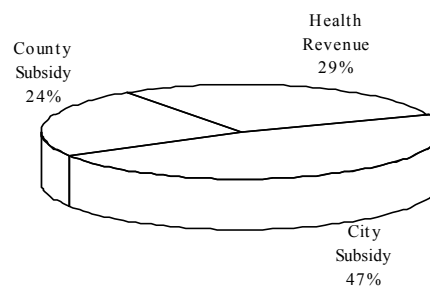
**The City of Wichita and Sedgwick County are working to shift Preventive Health Services under County administration. The change will be intended to provide clients with a greater complement of health services from a single provider.**

to be administered by the City. Tentative plans are to make the transition effective beginning in 2002. While funding details are not fully formulated at this writing, the total resources to fund the activities are planned to be within the expenditure levels currently budgeted.

The Health Department has varied funding sources. The City of Wichita

(60%) and Sedgwick County (40%) fund the City-County Budget. Services are provided countywide. A separate City Health budget is funded exclusively by the City of Wichita and provides services within the City limits. In addition, the Health Department generates clinic fees from clients with the ability to pay; these fees go to support the clinic services from which they are generated. Federal and State grants provide the remainder of the Department's resources.

**2002 Local Funding Resources**



## Finance and Operations

City Health functions are supported by the General Fund with operational expenditures partially offset by program revenue. Animal control revenue includes dog license fees, animal shelter vouchers, animal boarding fees, fees charged to veterinarians for pickup of dead animals, revenue from animal-related citations, and revenue from services provided to Sedgwick County and surrounding communities. The 2002 and 2003 budgets reflect a \$2 increase in the dog license fee; this change will result in a reduced General Fund subsidy for this operation. This increase reflects the first change in the license fee since 1991. The Food Section receives revenue through enrollment fees for food safety courses offered to area food service employees. The tobacco sales enforcement function is partially supported by the sale of tobacco sales licenses. Fees from inspections of pools, spas and hot tubs also contribute to the Department's revenue stream. In addition, the Department receives income from the sale of solid waste hauler licenses.





The **Environmental Health Division** enforces environmental standards in the City of Wichita and the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County. The Division is responsible for air quality control, animal control, environmental code enforcement, food protection and tobacco control, collection and disposal of hazardous materials, vector control, and water quality control.

The Food Protection Program provides regulatory oversight, consultative services, and educational support for food establishments in Wichita and Sedgwick County. Inspections of food service establishment are partially funded under a contract with KDHE. In fiscal 2000, 2,248 inspections of area food service facilities were conducted.

Food service inspection services and food handlers' classes are offered by Health Department under contract with KDHE. Recently, KDHE approved an increase in fees generated by inspections and licensing of food service establishments and industries. The added revenue will provide funding for an additional food inspector beginning in 2002. This addition is necessary to maintain an adequate number of annual inspections per food establishment. These changes will improve cost recovery and help ensure that area citizens will continue to be protected from food-borne pathogens and illness well into the future.



*A Health Department employee inspects a restaurant, a function that will continue to be conducted by City Health employees.*

The Environmental Maintenance section investigates and resolves premise condition complaints involving neighborhood blight, safety, or public health issues in Wichita and unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County. Field staff made approximately 23,000 inspections, including 10,334 initial investigations, during 2000. This was an increase of 442 inspections compared to 1999. In 2000, staff caused the removal, repair, or enclosure of 2,383 inoperable or abandoned vehicles. Violations are resolved through voluntary compliance or referral to a private contractor for abatement or court action.

The Animal Control section provides animal control field activities and operates the Wichita Animal Shelter. Animal Control, striving to keep dangerous or rabid animals off the streets.

#### **Selected Performance Measures - Animal Control**

	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Animals redeemed	29.70%	30.00%	31.50%	33.00%
Animals euthanized	70.30%	70.00%	68.50%	67.00%

Animal Control Officers respond to citizen calls regarding animal related problems. Officers pick up stray animals, issue summonses for leash law violations, remove dead animals, transport injured animals for emergency treatment, and investigate cruelty complaints in the City. In addition, officers investigate all animal bites in Sedgwick County and quarantine animals suspected of having rabies.

The Wichita Animal Shelter is the holding facility for all animals received from the City of Wichita, including stray animals held for a three day redemption period, quarantined rabies suspect animals and unwanted pets turned over by the public. Shelter services are provided under contract for animal control programs operated by Sedgwick County and for other area cities.

A pet adoption program is offered which requires a pre-payment for spaying and neutering. Responsible pet ownership is promoted with a public education program. In addition, City staff are currently developing an internet-based pet



*A puppy at the Animal Shelter hopes for a new home.*

adoption system that will enable interested citizens to see pictures and get information about animals available for adoption. The goal of this effort is to increase the animal adoption rate by making adoption services more convenient to citizens.

The City Health conducts inspections of swimming pools and spas in the City, enforcing health and safety standards including pH and chlorine levels, water clarity, and the presence of safety equipment. Staff perform over 1,000 swimming pool and spa inspections per year at licensed pool/spa facilities.

Tobacco vendors operating within the City of Wichita are periodically evaluated by the Health Department to ensure licensing requirements are met. Volunteers are used for undercover tobacco sales compliance checks. In 2000, the City had an 88.6 percent compliance rate, which compares favorably to the 1999

**Tobacco vendors in the City of Wichita are subject to periodical sales compliance checks. Vendors checked had an 88.6 percent compliance rate.**

level of 81 percent and to the statewide average of 65 percent. Health Department staff also conduct a program to educate youth in the community about the negative consequences of smoking.

Seasonal personnel inspect properties for violation of the tall grass and weed ordinance, in addition to inspections of private lots for excessive trash. Property owners are notified of violations and non-compliant properties are referred to a private contractor for mowing. Mowing and cleanup costs are billed to the property owner when possible. This service helps to ensure the ongoing beauty and vitality of Wichita's neighborhoods.

The **Preventive Health Services Division** provides services to approximately 41,000 clients per year. Services include children's dental and health care, adolescent health care, the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program, immunizations, treatment services, child care licensing, in-home and clinic services associated with maternal and infant care, and public outreach/education presentations.



*Health staff provide instruction and assistance to help area child care providers meet licensing requirements.*



Community outreach services are offered through Field Nurses.

To reduce health risks to newborns, field nurses promote prenatal health with home visits to pregnant women. Field Nurses also make home visits to families with infants whose mothers have tested positive for drugs and/or alcohol and to families of infants with teen parents in need of support and guidance with infant care.

**Volunteer dentists provide services through the Children's Dental Clinic.**

As State and Federal grant resources have declined relative to increasing costs of service delivery, increased pressure has been placed on locally generated clinic fees to bridge the gap. In response, staff are currently planning a multi-year study of the clinic fees' structure and cost recovery potential. This study should result in increased fee revenue generation as the fee structure and rates are updated with more recent cost of service estimates. The merging of preventive health services with Sedgwick County's ComCare services may yield so as yet, unidentified cost efficiencies as well.

Preventive Health Goals for the Community			
	2002	2003	
2 year olds with up-to-date immunizations	65%	70%	
Clients successfully referred to appropriate specialist or agency	85%	90%	
Clients of prenatal clinic delivering babies weighing over 5.5 pounds	93%	93%	
Summary of Health Revenue Generation			
	2000	2001	2002
Child Care Licensure	95,470	95,500	95,500
Animal Control Revenue	620,103	577,340	652,490
Food Program Revenue	204,259	219,400	254,500
Tobacco Licenses	48,840	48,600	48,600
Environmental Assessments	89,601	89,000	90,000
Spa/Pool/Hot Tubs	23,180	22,000	22,000
Solid Waste Haulers	26,695	26,500	26,500
Total Program Revenue	740,578	696,440	771,590

Health Department Budget Summary					
	2000 Actual	2001 Adopted	2001 Revised	2002 Adopted	2003 Approved
Total City-County Health Expenditures	4,246,657	4,762,720	4,702,350	4,978,780	5,107,380
--Less: Sedgwick County	(1,538,668)	(1,744,330)	(1,721,180)	(1,817,320)	(1,868,750)
Other revenue	(399,986)	(401,900)	(399,400)	(435,500)	(435,500)
<b>City General Fund Subsidy</b>	<b>2,308,003</b>	<b>2,616,490</b>	<b>2,581,770</b>	<b>2,725,960</b>	<b>2,803,130</b>
<b>Local Health - Expenditures</b>	<b>1,135,915</b>	<b>1,385,920</b>	<b>1,424,220</b>	<b>1,594,780</b>	<b>1,651,500</b>
<b>Local Health - Revenue</b>	<b>740,613</b>	<b>688,940</b>	<b>696,440</b>	<b>771,590</b>	<b>771,590</b>
<b>Total General Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>2,703,305</b>	<b>3,313,470</b>	<b>3,309,550</b>	<b>3,549,150</b>	<b>3,683,040</b>
<b>Clinic Fees - Revenue</b>	<b>1,492,873</b>	<b>850,940</b>	<b>1,021,920</b>	<b>1,003,200</b>	<b>1,030,300</b>
<b>Clinic Fees - Expenditures</b>	<b>629,587</b>	<b>848,670</b>	<b>1,126,990</b>	<b>1,127,290</b>	<b>1,084,620</b>
Total full-time positions	113	112	114	116	116
Total part-time positions	21	21	16	16	17
Total FTE	122.85	121.85	119.85	121.85	122.35